UPCOMING EVENT FOCUSES ON COLLEGE GOING IN KENTUCKY

(Frankfort, KY) – On Monday, August 17, the Kentucky Department of Education, in partnership with the Strategic Data Project (an initiative of the Center for Education Policy at Harvard University), 55,000 Degrees, the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence and Jefferson Co. Schools will hold a news briefing and discussion on college going in Kentucky. The event will start at 10 a.m. ET at the Gheens Academy, 4425 Preston Highway in Louisville.

The event will feature the demonstration of a new online, interactive tool that includes school-level data on the college-going pathway, high school graduation, college enrollment and college persistence in Kentucky. The tool is the culmination of a collaborative partnership between the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics and the Strategic Data Project.

In addition, the event will include two panel discussions. The first will feature members of the Prichard Committee Student Voice Team and peer mentors from 55,000 Degrees who will discuss student challenges in going to college. The second panel will include Carl Rollins, Executive Director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Kentucky Community and Technical College System President Jay Box, Eminence Independent Schools Superintendent Buddy Berry and Jon Fullerton, Executive Director, Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University, who will discuss the implication the data could have on policy decisions in Kentucky.

Nearly 100 people are scheduled to attend the event.

A full agenda follows:

(more)

10 –10:05 a.m. ET	**Welcome** *Event Facilitator: Mary Gwen Wheeler, Executive Director, 55,000 Degrees* *Donna Hargens, Jefferson County Public Schools Superintendent*

10:05 –10:10 a.m.   **Introduction**
Terry Holliday, Commissioner of Education
- Describe the partnership with Strategic Data Project
- Discuss the importance of using data to drive improvement
- Describe the imperatives of this work

10:10 –10:30 a.m.   **Website Demonstration**
Meg Nipson, Research Manager, Strategic Data Project
- Demonstrate the web tool's high school graduation, college enrollment, and college persistence interactive graphics
- Describe questions raised by the report

10:30 –10:55 a.m.   **Student Panel**
Moderator: Jacob Ryan, Reporter, WFPL
Panelists:
Naomi Kellogg, Student, Indiana University
Brooke Ratcliffe, Student, Simmons College
Mercedy Smith, Student, University of Louisville
Amanda Jean Wahlstedt, Student, Knox Central High School
- Discuss barriers students are facing and how they are coping with college readiness, access, and persistence challenges
- Discuss supports that can make a difference in students' college-going success

10:55 –11:20 a.m.   **Expert Panel**
Moderator: Brigitte Blom Ramsey, Executive Director Elect, Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Panelists:
Jon Fullerton, Executive Director, Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University
Carl Rollins, Executive Director, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority
Jay Box, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System
Buddy Berry, Superintendent, Eminence Independent Schools
- Discuss the importance of data transparency and data-based decision making in driving education reform
- Discuss how the interactive report can help identify areas where students need more support
- Discuss potential policy responses to issues highlighted in the report

11:20 –11:25 a.m.   **Closing Remarks**
Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville

11:25 –11:30 a.m.   **Wrap Up**
Robert L. King, President, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Summarize main themes from the event
- Discuss strategies to improve college readiness and college access in Kentucky

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